

Minutes for Montague Energy Committee Meeting
May 13, 2014 meeting
Montague Town Hall
6:15 to 8:15

Present: Ellie Kastanopolous, Ariel Elan, Jeff Singleton, Mike Jackson (Montague Reporter), Sally Pick, Pam Hanold, Chris Mason, Rich Adams

4/22/14 minutes not yet circulated; Chris has draft.

Franklin Regional Energy Smart Homes Proposal--Ellie

Developed draft budget, proposal. Trying to find regional organization to host program as a fiscal agent and also looking for funding.

- * FRCOG overhead would double cost of program. FRCOG not interested in overseeing canvassers.
- * Talked with other regional organizations, energy committees about program, Ben Weil of UMass Energy Extension program.
- * Greenfield not interested in hosting.
- * Franklin Regional Housing Authority very close to agreeing to be fiscal agent.
 - ~Plan to start with pilot, likely with Sunderland, who has some funds for low income outreach and is applying for grant to hire canvassers for the summer.
- * Would offer a menu of choices for outreach for each community and write a memorandum of understanding between the community and FRESH. Includes data tracking.
- * Estimates that one person canvassing 4 hours a day would take about 75 days to cover Montague.
- * Green Communities may consider funding outreach to residents if have reached 20% energy reduction.

FRCOG Strategic Energy Planning

* Mass CEC announced that FRCOG will get \$30,000 to fund implementation of plan in four communities. Pam will forward road map developed from planning process. FRCOG taking feedback by May 21st.

Town Energy Issues

- * Pam sent email to Mike Sullivan asking if he could use committee's input on boiler. Has not heard back.
- * Turners Falls High School solar panels do work, but display does not.
- * SAPHIRE grant available to schools for feasibility studies for non-natural gas heated school buildings. SAPHIRE just refunded for \$7 million.

Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline

Jeff has asked the committee to look at where the natural gas pipeline fits in within the larger energy policies of the state, such as Green Communities Act. Could ask question to state and MA Department of Public Utilities.

* Committee has been charged with task of doing efficiency. Gas pipeline does not seem to jibe with that. Committee and public discussed topic.